Foodgrains Stock Position

1075. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the physical stocks of foodgrains available with the Government at the end of June each year in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990;

(b) what have been the releases to the public distribution system during each of the five year period mentioned above;

(c) whether the present level of food stocks is sufficient for meeting the needs of the public distribution system in the country and to act as a buffer against undue price increases; and

(d) if not, what steps Government are contemplating to build up the adequate food stocks?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The stocks of foodgrains with the public agencies at the end of June each year in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 were at 26.28 million tonnes, 23.27 million tonnes 11.90 million tonnes, 13.05 million tonnes and 20.31 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The total issues of foodgrains to various States/U.Ts, and others from the Central Pool during the years 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 (upto June) were 16.10 million tonnes, 17.41 million tonnes, 17.29 million tonnes, 14.63 million tonnes and 7.39 million tonnes (upto June 90) respectively.

(c) The present stock position of foodgrains with the public agencies is by and large adequate to meet the reasonable requirements of States/U.Ts. and as a buffer against undue price increases.

(d) Question does not arise.

Study by World Bank Team in Fishery Sector

1076. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank team has made a study on country's fishery sector;

(b) if so, the opinion expressed by the team on the prospect of increasing fish production in the Exclusive Economic Zones; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement those suggestions to increase fish production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Introduction of Express Train between Puri to Madras and Vice-Versa

1077. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to introduce an Express train between Puri to Madras and vice-versa;

(b) whether there is also a proposal under Government's consideration to introduce an Express train between Puri and Patna and vice-versa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement these two proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.